A LETTER TO A GENTLEMAN ABOUT THE Election of Members For the COUNTY of CAMBRIDG,

To serve in this present PARLIAMENT;

With some Reflections upon a late Libellous Paper Entituled,

A Letter to a Friend upon the Dissolving of the late Parliament, *and the calling of a new One; together with a List of those who were against making the Prince and Princess of* Orange *King and Queen.*

Which *Reflections* are made to warn all their Majesties good Subjects, on this Occasion, of the Malice and Scandal of the said Libel.

SIR,

YOU Have already received an Account of the Election of Members to serve in this present Parliament, for the County, University, and Town of *Cambridge*; but were not therein acquainted with that restless Spirit of *Malice*, and *Sedition*, which will be satisfied with nothing less, than the ruin of the Government in *Church* and *State*, and the introduction of *Popery*, and *Arbitary Power* among us; As plainly appeared by the Dissenters adhering to, and approbation of the practices of the last Reign, in order thereunto; And particularly in this County, relating to the election there lately made; towards the effecting of whose fomented and designs; they dispersed that Scandalous and Libellous paper, Entitled, *A Letter to a Friend* &c. to this County, University, and Town of *Cambridg*; as they have done in all other parts of England, to prevent the honest Free-Holders and Members of the several Corporations of *England*, from giving their Votes for any of those Worthy *Patriots* of our *Church* and State, Printed in the said *Scandalous Paper*: And for the more effectual obtaining this their Malicious Design; they in this County spread the Venom thereof in their CONVENTICLES, using Vile, False, and Scandalous Reflections upon some of the said persons therein named; which coming to the knowledg of the Magistrates of the University, and Town of *Cambridg*, they upon strict enquiry into the matter of the said Libellous Letter, caused the following Paper to be printed and dispers'd thro' the whole County, that by this example other places might be warned against this Poysonous and Infectious Libel. The true Copy of which Paper is the following.

'62 ... 1509, 10

Whereas

WHEREAS *a Falſe and Scandalous Libel hath been Printed and Diſpers'd abroad againſt ſeveral Gentlemen of Worth and Quality, and of known Affection to the preſent Government; and in particular againſt Sir* Levinus Bennet *Baronet, and Sir* Robert Cotton *Knight, two of their Majeſties Juſtices of the Peace of this County of* Cambridg; *Suggeſting that they were againſt King* William's *and Queen* Mary's, *being King and Queen, thereby Inſinuating, that they are diſaffected to the preſent Government; which Suggeſtions are altogether Falſe and Malitious. The aforeſaid Gentlemen having alwaies, and in multitudes of Inſtances ſignaliz'd their affection both to the King and Queen, as likewiſe to the* Proteſtant Religion; *and to the end ſuch Falſe and Malicious Scandals and the ſpreders thereof may be brought to Condigne Puniſhment: It is deſired by thoſe Gentlemen, that all good men will make diſcovery to ſome Magiſtrate of all ſuch Perſons who ſhall be Inſtruments in Spreading and Publiſhing of ſuch Falſe and Scandalous Reflections.*

Imprimatur, { James Johnſon, *Vice-Chancellour,*
John Pepys, *Mayor.*

I muſt likewiſe further crave leave to tell you, That the Forementioned Paper had ſo good an Effect upon the Free-Holders of this County, as likewiſe upon the Members of the Univerſity and Town of Cambridg, that they have Choſen for their Repreſentatives in Parliament, Men of *Honeſt and Moderate* Principles; Firm to the *Eſtabliſh'd Government in Church and State*; whom we doubt not, but will upon all Occaſions approve themſelves ſteady and Zealous for the Wellfare and True Intereſt of both. I cannot therefore but much diſlike the Example of the Author of that Malitious Libel, who durſt have the Confidence to invade the Previledg of Parliaments, in Publiſhing the names of their Members, which is notoriouſly done in the foremention'd Paper; for which Reaſons I have carefully forborne the mentioning of the Names of thoſe, who would have given up all the Corporations of *England* to the Regulators of the late Reign, who conſiſted cheifly in many places of Papiſts, as well as Diſenters, and others, who were for giving up the *Penal Laws* and *Teſt*. Thoſe GREAT BULWORKS OF OUR SPIRITUAL AND CIVIL RIGHTS.

Nor muſt it be omitted, how much the Grace and Goodneſs of the King was abuſed, who did not only intend an Indemnity and Pardon to all his Subjects, at his Acceſſion to the Crown, in imitation of all his Royal Predeceſſors, who did the like; but for the more effectual Grant of the ſame, did out of his abundant Grace to his People, and for quieting their Minds, leave it to the Parliament to frame the ſame for the greateſt Security and Advantage that could be contrived; which thoſe Men were ſo far from proſecuting, That notwithſtanding all the Endeavours made by thoſe worthy Patriots of our Country (Aſperſed by the forementioned Libel) to anſwer the King's moſt juſt Deſires, theſe irreconcileable Spirits would never ſuffer it to paſs; thereby making the Government grievious, and hazarding its Deſtruction, that ſo they might more eaſily make that Change, or a worſe, which they falſely and maliciouſly impute to the honeſt and well affected People of this Nation.

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